

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A practice projectile for use with a gun system, comprising:

a fuze, wherein the fuze has an elongated stepped shape comprised of a forward end, an intermediate end, and a narrower rearward step;
a hollow projectile body including an open front end and a closed rear end;

wherein the front end of the projectile body is secured to the fuze;

a boom assembly secured to the closed end of the projectile body;

a center vent tube located entirely within the projectile body, having a forward end that is secured to the fuze abutting the inner wall of the projectile body near the forward end of the projectile body, and a rearward end that abuts against the inner wall of the projectile body near the rear end of the projectile body, whereby an empty chamber is formed inside the hollow projectile body between the inner wall of the projectile body and the outer wall of the vent tube, to form a smoke chamber and to provide added weight to control a center of gravity of the projectile, said vent tube having a wall located within, near its forward end, the wall entirely plugging the inner portion of the vent tube and disposed perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vent tube, the rearward step of the fuze extending into the vent tube and engaging the wall located inside the vent tube;

wherein the rear end of the projectile body includes a plurality of normally closed vent holes that are disposed in close proximity to the boom

2 BEST AVAILABLE COPY

assembly, in fluidic communication with the smoke chamber; and

a plurality of vent plugs that fit in the vent holes to plug the vent holes, wherein the vent plugs become unplugged from the projectile body upon function of the fuze, and allow smoke that accumulates inside the smoke chamber to be released so as to provide a signature for the projectile, said vent plugs being generally cylindrically shaped bodies with dome shape ends, disposed inside the vent holes with a portion extending into the hollow interior of the projectile body, and where said dome shaped ends extend entirely outside the projectile body and abut against the outer wall of the projectile body.

2-3. (Canceled)

2-4. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the plurality of vent holes include four equally spaced apart vent holes.

5. (Canceled)

3-6. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the plurality of vent plugs includes four vent plugs.

4-7. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the center vent tube is generally cylindrically shaped.

5-8. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 4, wherein the center vent tube is open at both ends.

9-0. (Canceled)

3 BEST AVAILABLE COPY

5
6 11. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 8, wherein the center vent tube is mounted along an axial length of the projectile body.

~~12. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 11, wherein the fuze has an elongated stepped shape comprised of a forward end, an intermediate step, and a narrower rearward step.~~

7 13. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 12, wherein the rearward step defines an edge with the intermediate step.

7
8 14. (Previously Amended) The projectile of claim 13, wherein the center vent tube has a forward edge, such that when the projectile is assembled, the rearward step fits inside the center vent tube, with the forward edge abutting the edge defined between the rearward step and intermediate step, to secure the center vent tube to the fuze.

4 BEST AVAILABLE COPY